

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
May 10, 2005**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

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Assistant United States Attorney
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**BOWLING GREEN METHAMPHETAMINE
MANUFACTURER PLEADS GUILTY**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **MICHAEL BASKETTE**, age 42, 3224-B Barnwood Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky, **plead guilty** to conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine between August 26, 2004, and December 10, 2004, to distributing methamphetamine on August 26, 2004, and December 10, 2004, to attempting to manufacture methamphetamine on December 10, 2004, and being in possession of pseudoephedrine and methamphetamine manufacturing equipment with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of life in prison, a maximum fine of \$13,000,000 and a period of supervised release of no less than eight years. The mandatory minimum sentence in this case is 20 years in prison. There is no parole in the federal system.

On December 10, 2004, the Bowling Green Drug Task Force with cooperation from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives executed a search warrant at **Baskette's** residence located at 3224-B Barnwood Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The execution of the search warrant was the culmination of a lengthy investigation into methamphetamine manufacturing in and around the Bowling Green area. At **Baskette's** residence, law enforcement found a methamphetamine laboratory and the ready ability to manufacture a substantial quantity of methamphetamine. Law enforcement recovered approximately 500 grams of crushed pseudoephedrine along with tanks altered to hold anhydrous ammonia, lithium batteries, Coleman fuel and coffee filters. Additionally, law enforcement seized numerous surveillance cameras and equipment used for guarding **Baskette's** methamphetamine manufacturing activities.

Baskette is scheduled to be sentenced on August 2, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. (C.D.T.) in Bowling Green, Kentucky by the Honorable Thomas B. Russell.

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The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brian Butler, and it was

investigated by the Bowling Green Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

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